

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to add the abstract, add new claims 17-33 and to amend claims 10-16. A clean copy of the substitute specification and claims is included.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

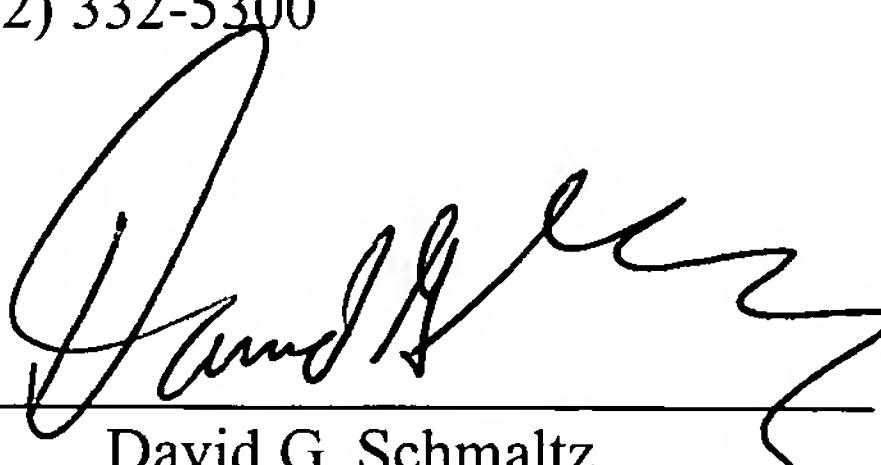
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, David G. Schmaltz (Reg. No. 39,828), at (612) 336-4617.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

By


David G. Schmaltz
Reg. No. 39,828

Dated: 12 December 2005

DGS/cjc